

Members of the Public Health Committee,

I have seen the proposed changes in SB #439, Section 1 regarding EMS responders to incidents. This change would possibly be in conflict with Statute 7-313e (Authority of a Fire Officer During an Emergency) and may jeopardize the incident command system that we and every other emergency responder follows in our State. It is very important that there be one Incident Commander, whether Single Command or Unified Command, at every incident and this proposed change that states that "No Person shall hinder or interfere with an EMS provider..." is in direct conflict with 7-313e. Although EMS is a critical function at many incident scenes it is important to realize that every incident must be controlled from every aspect and one person or one designated group of command people must be able to oversee and maintain that control. This proposal has the potential to destroy our normal incident command and control.

If EMS responders are having a problem with 7-313e (and I don't see many examples of that) then the EMS Community and the Fire Community must get together and fix it. This proposed legislation does not do that.

Please review the proposal and consider not supporting Section 1.

Thank You,

Larry R. Black

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Fire Chief & Marshal

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